



2018 Pennsylvania CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate Name: Mark Pinsley

Running For: PA Senate

District: 16

Party Affiliation: Democratic

Charitable nonprofits include groups like food banks, Habitat for Humanity, YMCAs, religious institutions, hospitals, museums, libraries, child care centers, and many more. What has been your personal experience with nonprofits (ex: as a board member, employee, volunteer, or donor)? How do these experiences shape your policy positions?

I serve on the board of Jewish Family Services and I have volunteered to raise money for other local non-profits. I know that non-profits can bring together people from many parts of a community in the spirit of service. I think that non-profit organizations are vital to a thriving community.

What is your position on the following tax issues that affect charitable nonprofits:

Do you support preserving state and local sales and real-estate tax exemptions for charitable nonprofits?

I support the exemptions for charitable non-profits. I do think that accountability is an issue and the more transparency organizations have the more successful they can be because the community trusts them to deliver the services as a priority.

Do you believe that nonprofits should be required to provide Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOTS) or Services in Lieu of Taxes (SILOTS)?

I don't think that PILOTS should be universally required by all non-profits. In certain cases, this may be appropriate, but it should be considered carefully and on a case by case basis.

Would you support additional state tax revenues dedicated to fund nonprofits providing contracted government health and human services?

Possibly, but it depends on the services being provided and the nonprofit's overall mission.

Additional comments about tax policies that affect nonprofits:

Nonprofits provide more than 720,000 jobs in Pennsylvania (15% of the state's workforce). What policies would you propose to promote continued job growth for private employers, including both nonprofit and for-profit business?

We really do need to raise the minimum wage in Pennsylvania. As a consumer-based society, Pennsylvania is well behind our neighbors when it comes to wages. The data has proven that there is an increase in economic activity when wages are raised. We also need to invest in more job training and retraining programs.

Would you favor legislation that would reduce the likelihood of a budget impasse in future years? If so, what type of legislation?

I believe legislators should not get paid unless they pass a budget.

Would you support regulatory changes that increase efficiencies and nonprofit-government partnerships. (Proposed regulatory changes could include reducing redundancies across state agencies - e.g. common pre-award processes, budget templates, use of a single audit, reporting template and central depository vault)?

Locally, United Way has done this with many nonprofit and governmental services. They have become the clearinghouse so to speak to connect organizations and services with the people who need them. This program seems to be working quite well and can be used as a model to reduce additional bureaucracy.

If elected, what would be your top three policy priorities?

Reform and anticorruption - ending the unlimited campaign contribution rules, ending partisan gerrymandering and making it easier for people to vote.

Education - I want to see the fair funding formula enacted

Invest in green jobs - Pennsylvania is positioned to become a leader in green technology and jobs, I would like to see investment to develop this industry and workforce here in PA.